

MA Commission for the Blind

**Pre-Employment Transition Services for
Students with Visual Impairments**
MCB Annual Visions of Collaboration Conference
Focus on Success in Work and Life

March 22, 2019

Holiday Inn and Suites of Marlborough
265 Lakeside Ave, Marlborough, MA

- 7:30 - 8:00 **Registration**
- 8:00 – 8:45 **Networking and Continental Breakfast
Regional Collaboration**
Seating suggested by regional location.
Question Box: Participants can submit questions
to be addressed during working lunch.
- 8:45 - 9:15 **Welcome** and Around the room introductions
MA Commission for the Blind (MCB)
Casey Hall, Director of Training
Opening Remarks
MCB Commissioner David D’Arcangelo
- 9:15 – 10:00 **What Employers are looking for in an
Employee: Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**
Employer Panel Presentation
Moderator: John Oliveira, MCB Deputy
Commissioner
Richard W. Curtis, Vice President | Workforce
Development | Global Inclusion | State Street
Corporation
- 10:00 – 10:15 **MCB Partnerships for Pre-ETS Consumers**
Joe Buizon, MCB Employee Services Supervisor

10:15 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 12:00 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS-3 Choices A, B, C**

**A Assistive Technology: How Much is Enough
and How Much is Too Much**

Rick Ely, PhD., TVI

William Hersh, M.Ed., MSLVR, CLVT, Low Vision
Therapist/Assistive Technology Specialist

B Being Ready for College

Panel Presentation

Moderator: Teri Turgeon, Director, Community
Programs, Perkins School for the Blind

1) What to expect for services

College Office for Disability

Paul Hastings, Director of Disability,
Boston University/Wheelock

2) What are the Skills Needed for Success

Alan White, MCB Regional Director,
Vocational Rehabilitation

Meg Robertson, MCB Director, Orientation &
Mobility

Carolyn Ovesen, MCB Supervisor,
Rehabilitation Teaching

Alexander Pooler, MCB Director, Assistive
Technology

C Self-Advocacy & Buy-in

Panel Presentation

Moderator: Thomas Miller, Special Education &
Training Consultant

Panel Representatives:

- Tammy Reisman, M.Ed., C.A.E.S.
Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments
Newton Public Schools
TVI Program Coordinator, UMass Boston
- O & M
- Lisa L. Fournier, EdD., Transition Specialist, South Coast Educational Collaborative
- Mayanne MacDonald-Briggs, MCB, Transition Counselor

12:00 - 12:45 **Working Lunch**

- *Moderator:* Casey Hall, Director of Training
- **Table Hosts:** Pre-ETS Program Providers, MCB Staff (AT, DBES, O & M, RDs)
- **Networking, Q & A & Opportunity to visit the resource tables.**

12:45 – 1:00 **Q and A** from question boxes
MCB Staff and Conference Committee Members

1:00 - 1:45 **Our Stories: Challenges & Successes**
Consumer Panel Presentation
Moderator: Alan White, MCB Regional Director, Metro West

- Grace VanDyck, Senior, Dean College
- Melisar Nambatya, Junior, UMass Boston

1:45 - 1:55 Cookies and drinks

1:55 – 2:45 **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Students with Visual Impairments**
Moderator: Casey Hall, MCB Director of Training
MCB Pre-ETS Program Providers
Introduction to Pre-ETS Programs

- What the programs have in common
- How to apply/get in to any program

6 Program Providers

- What is unique about their program
- Where their program is located
- When is their program offered

(5 minutes to present, 5 minutes for Q & A)

Panel Members:

- Carroll Center for the Blind

Dina Rosenbaum, M.Ed., Chief Program Officer

- Lowell Association for the Blind

Elizabeth M. Cannon, Executive Director

- Our Space, Our Place

Cheryl Cumings, Founder/Executive Director

- Partners for Youth with Disabilities

Antonela Prifti, Mentoring Specialist

- Perkins School for the Blind

Teri Turgeon, Education Director, Community Programs

- The POLUS Center for Social & Economic Development, Inc.

Theresa E. Kane, Ph.D., Chief Operating Officer

2:45- 3:00

Closing

Program Evaluation and CEU distribution

Casey Hall, MCB Director of Training

CEUs

- CRC
- ACVREP
- Certificate of Completion